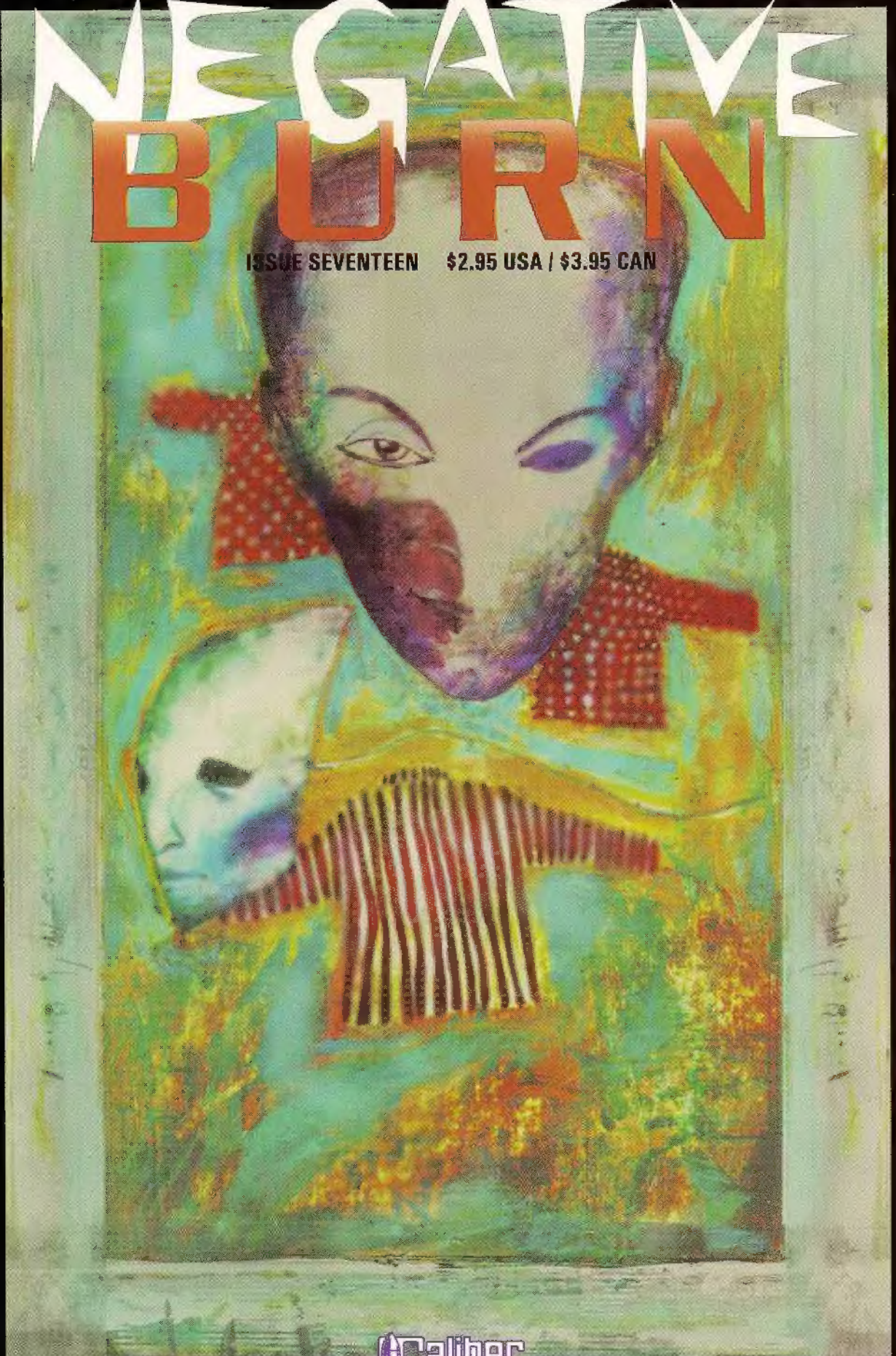
BRIAN BOLLAND • ALAN MOORE • BILL KOEB • PHILLIP HESTER • RAY LAGO • DAVID MAZZUCCHELLI

# NEGATIVE BURN

ISSUE SEVENTEEN $2.95 USA / $3.95 CAN



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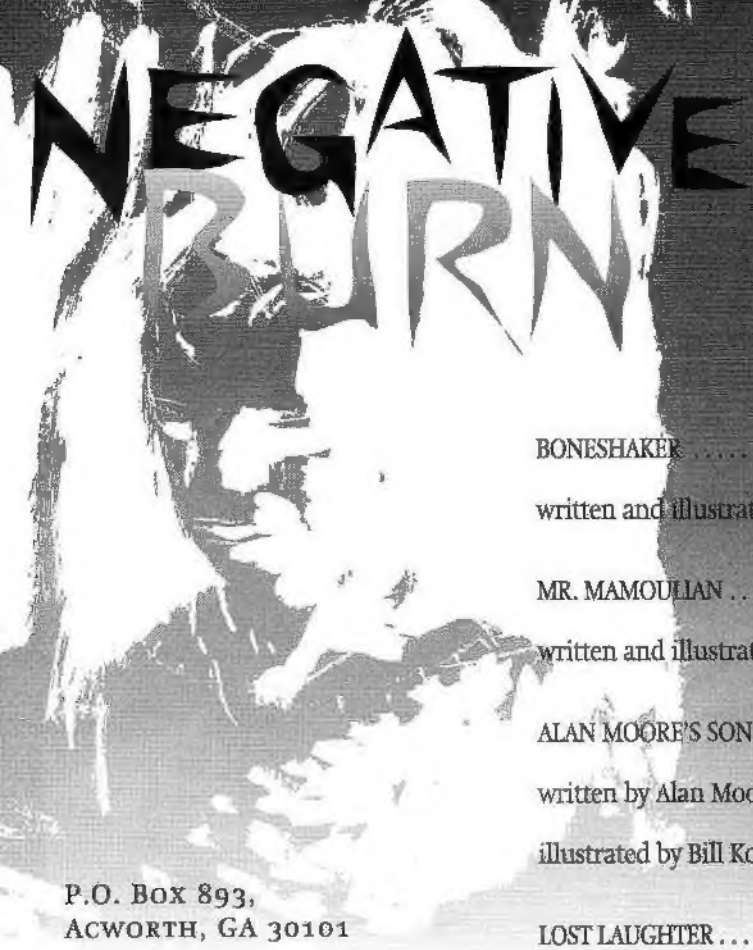


A Mad Hatter Studios
International Product

Joe Pruett ~ Editor

Volume One
Number Seventeen

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written and illustrated by Phillip Hester

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written by Doug Wheeler

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written and illustrated by Matthew Smith

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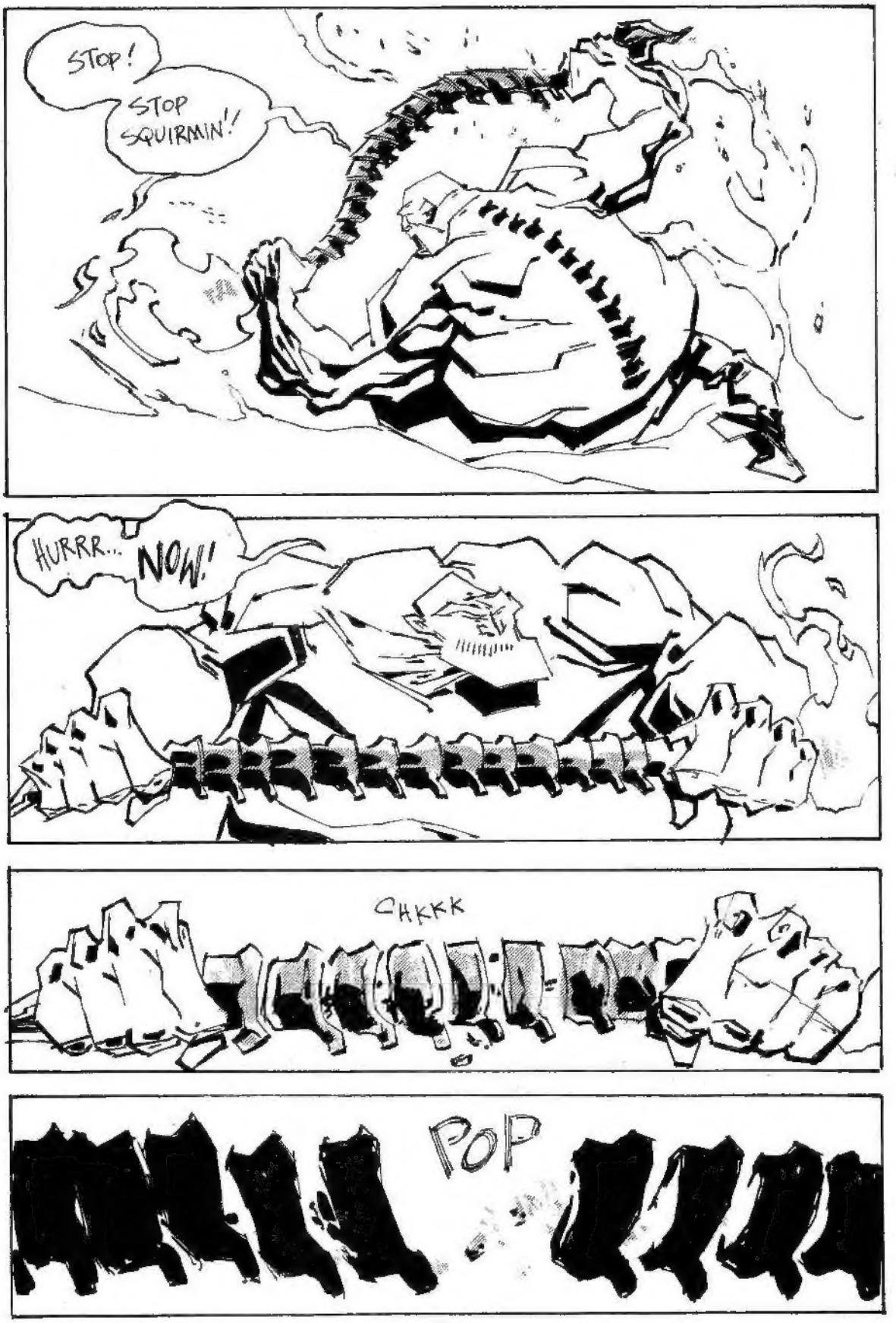
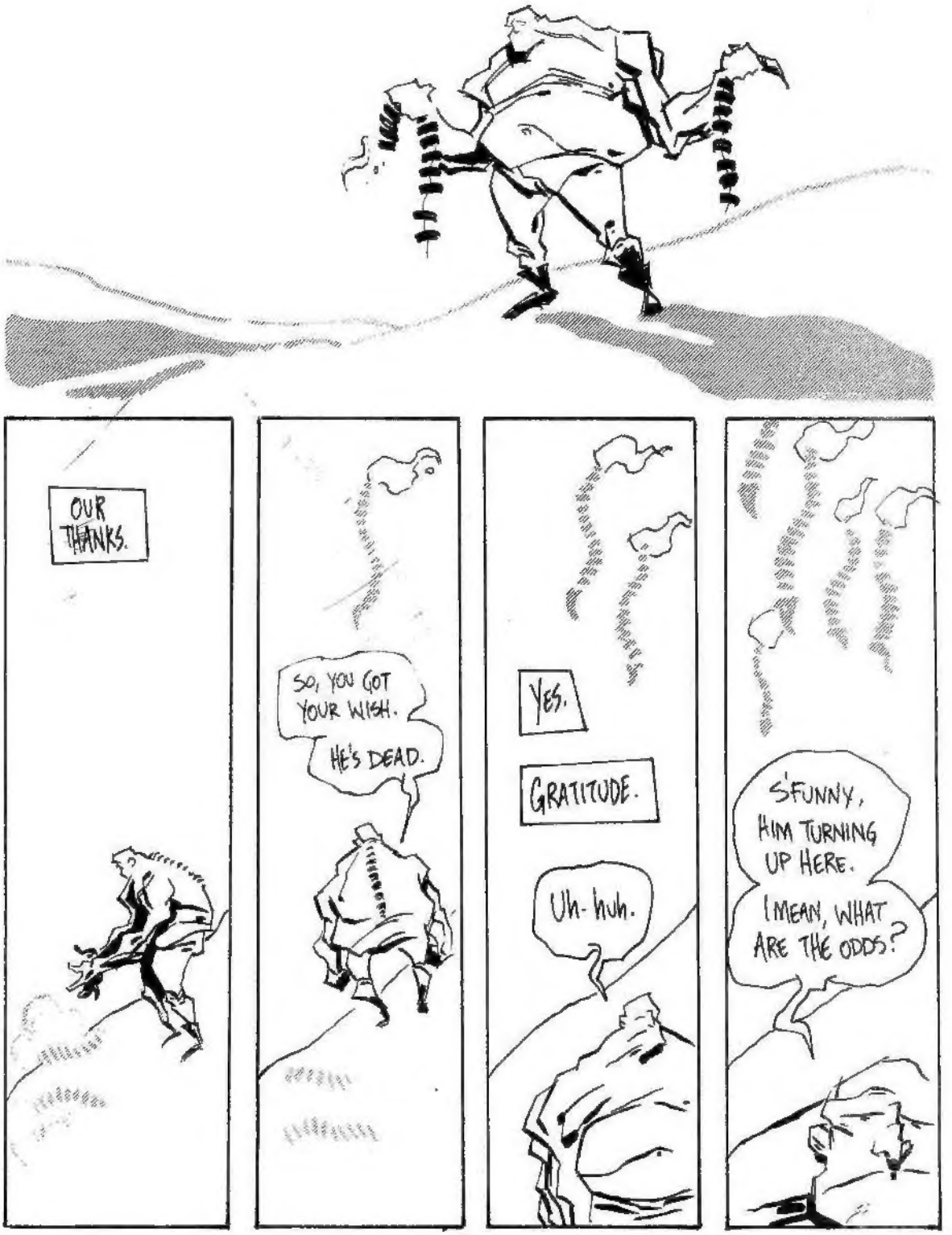
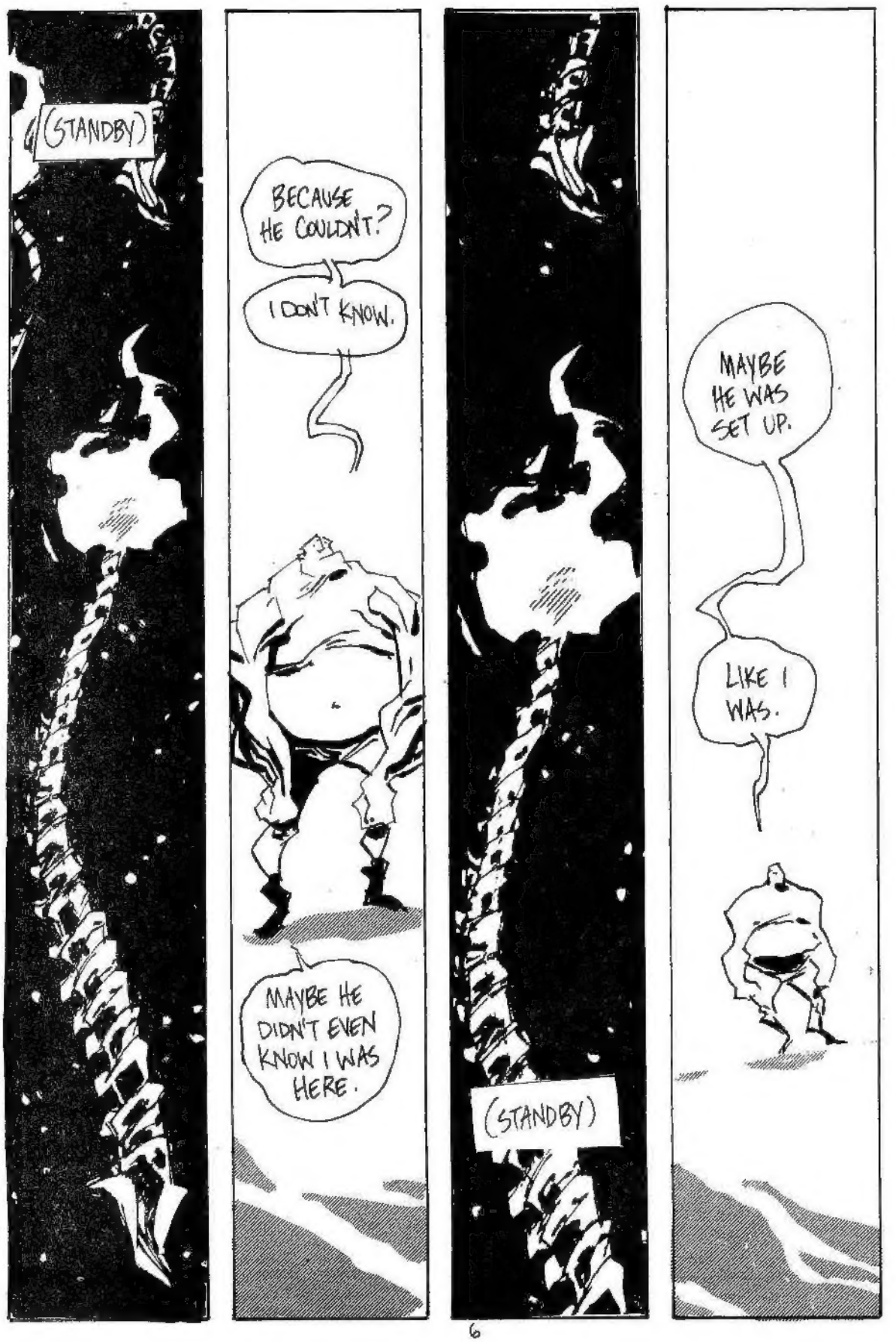
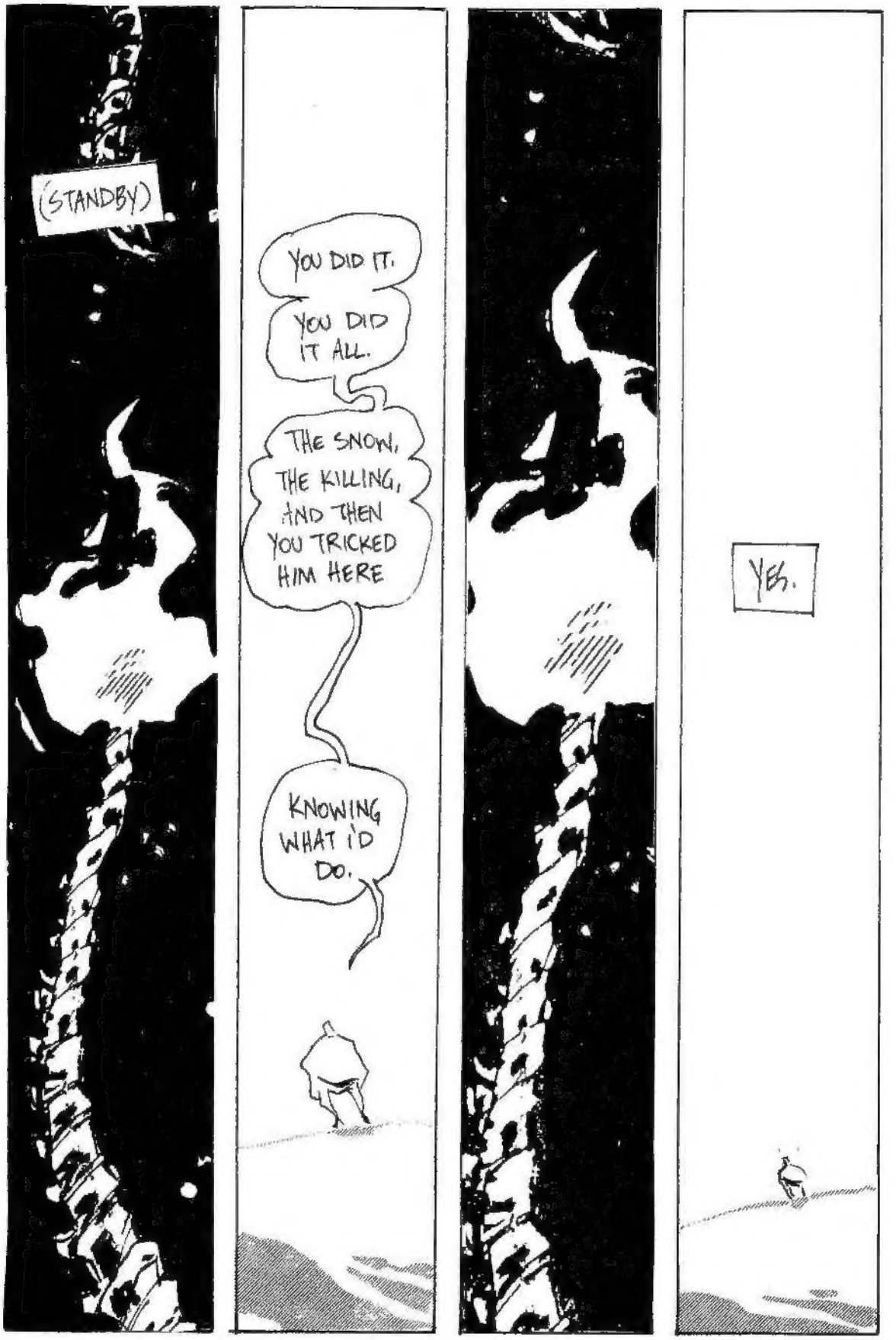

STOP!
STOP SQUIRMIN'!
HURRR...
NOW!
CHKKK
POP


OUR THANKS.
SO, YOU GOT YOUR WISH.
HE'S DEAD.
YES.
GRATITUDE.
Uh-huh.
S'FUNNY, HIM TURNING UP HERE.
I MEAN, WHAT ARE THE ODDS?

JUST HAPPENING TO WRECK MY PLANET...
KILL MY WIFE...
PISS ME OFF.
YOU TOLD HIM.

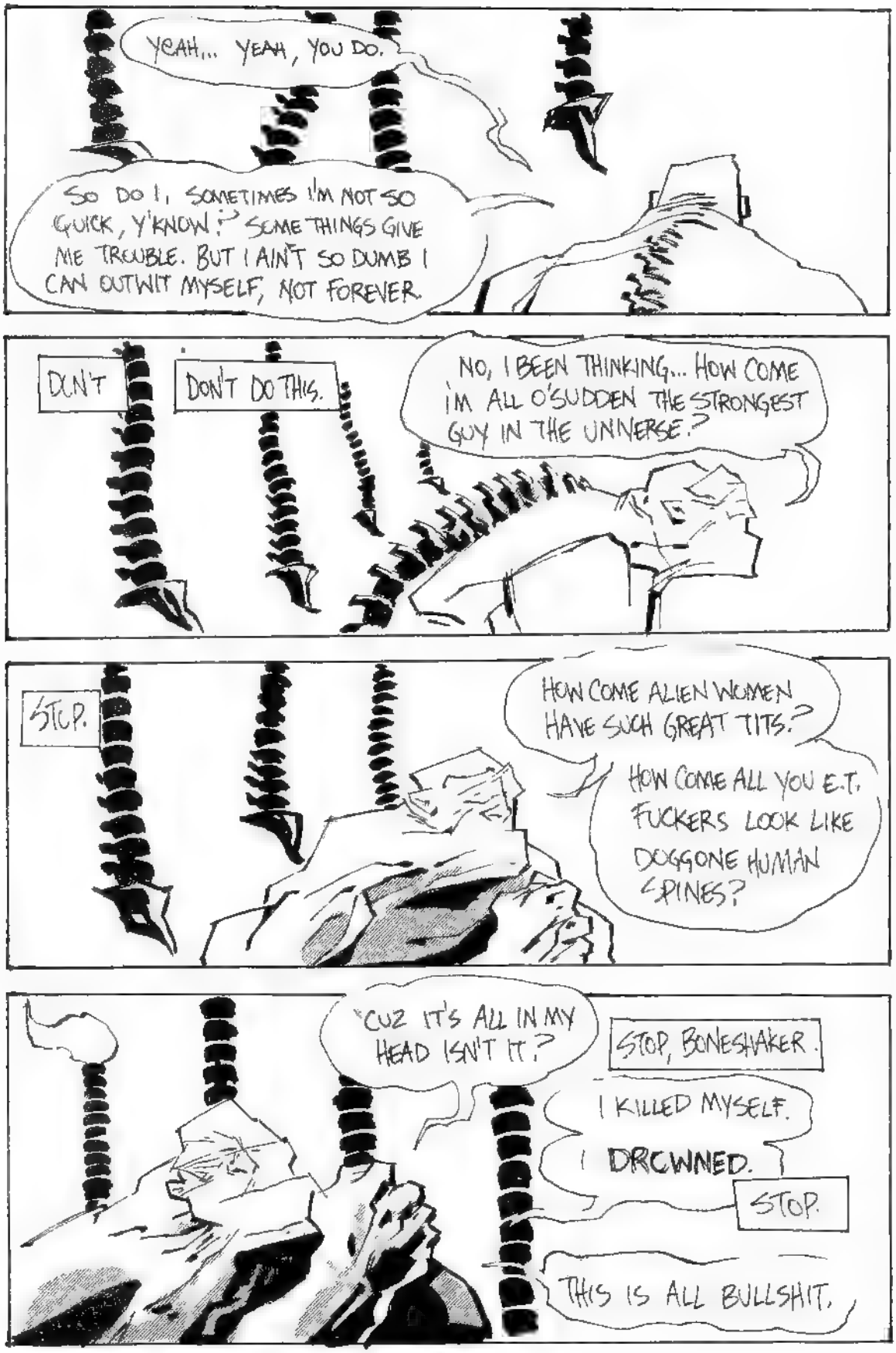
IT WAS (STANDBY) ... NECESSARY.
YOU WOULD NOT HAVE KILLED HIM.
DAMN STRAIGHT. SO YOU TOLD HIM... BROUGHT HIM HERE,
BUT WHY'D HE GO AND KILL EVERYONE?
IT WAS THAT ONE'S NATURE.
yeah, BUT...
WHY DIDN'T HE KILL ME?


(STANDBY)
BECAUSE HE COULDN'T?
I DON'T KNOW.
MAYBE HE DIDN'T EVEN KNOW I WAS HERE.
(STANDBY)
MAYBE HE WAS SET UP.
LIKE I WAS.


(STANDBY)
YOU DID IT.
YOU DID IT ALL.
THE SNOW, THE KILLING, AND THEN YOU TRICKED HIM HERE
KNOWING WHAT I'D DO.
YES.

ARE YOU ANGRY?
I DON'T KNOW.
I DON'T KNOW SHIT.
BUT I THOUGHT YOU GUYS WERE DIFFERENT.
I THOUGHT YOU COULDN'T LIE.
DIDN'T EVEN KNOW WHAT ONE WAS.
OH, BONESHAKER...
WE LEARN.

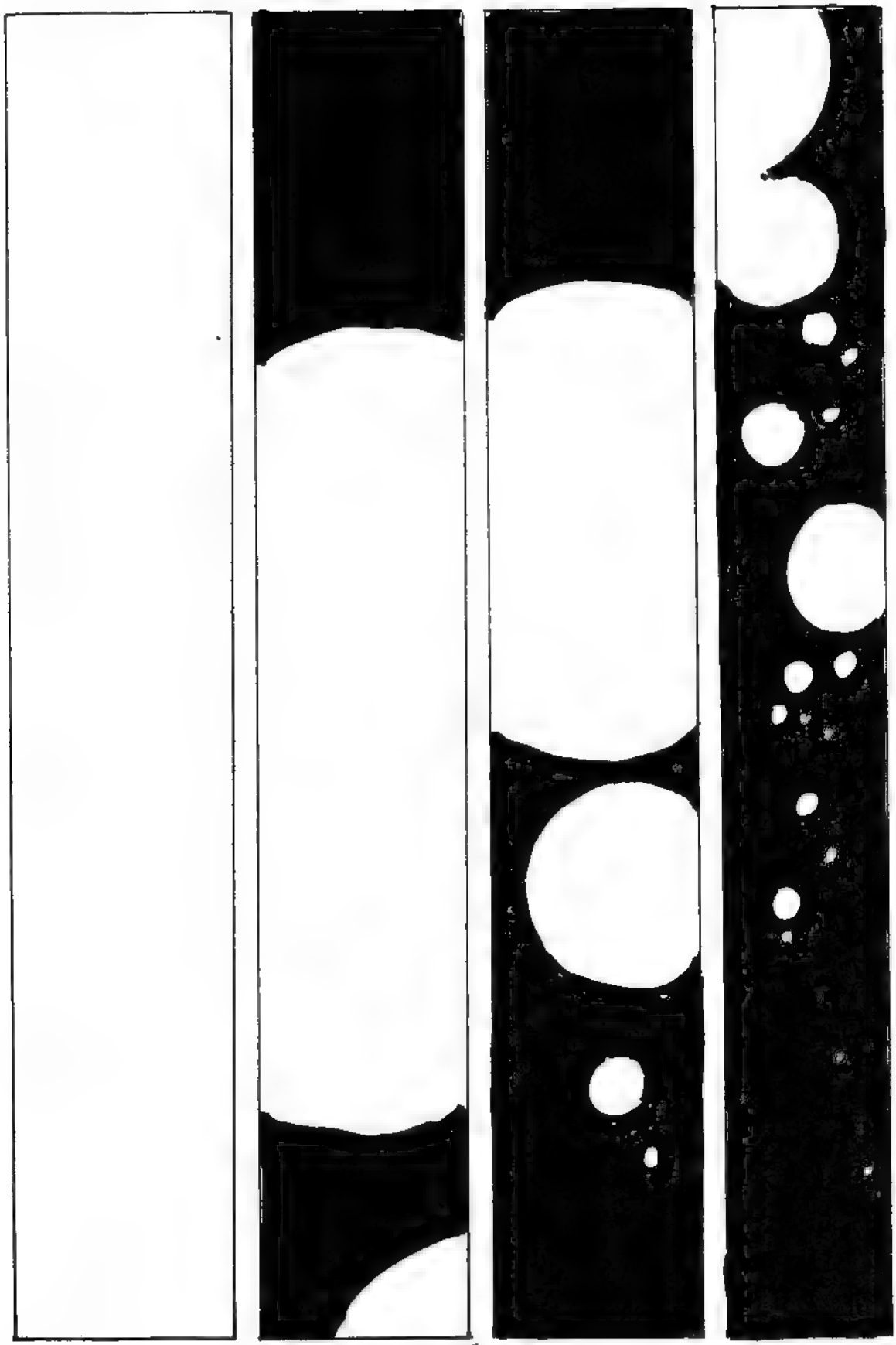
So... Now what?
You done?
Yes. Again, our thanks.
In gratitude we present the mighty Boneshaker a gift.
Yeah?
This planet
All mine? By myself?
If you wish we can (standby) repopulate.
huh.
S'funny.
I always thought it would be cool to be the last guy on earth.
Like Chuck Heston, fightin' zombies an' apes an' shit.
And now, here I am... just like I wanted.
Yes.
EVERYTHING like I wanted.
Being strong. Being wanted. The singing. Standing up for myself. The alien chicks, and now this.
Yes.
Why is that? How come?
We do not understand.

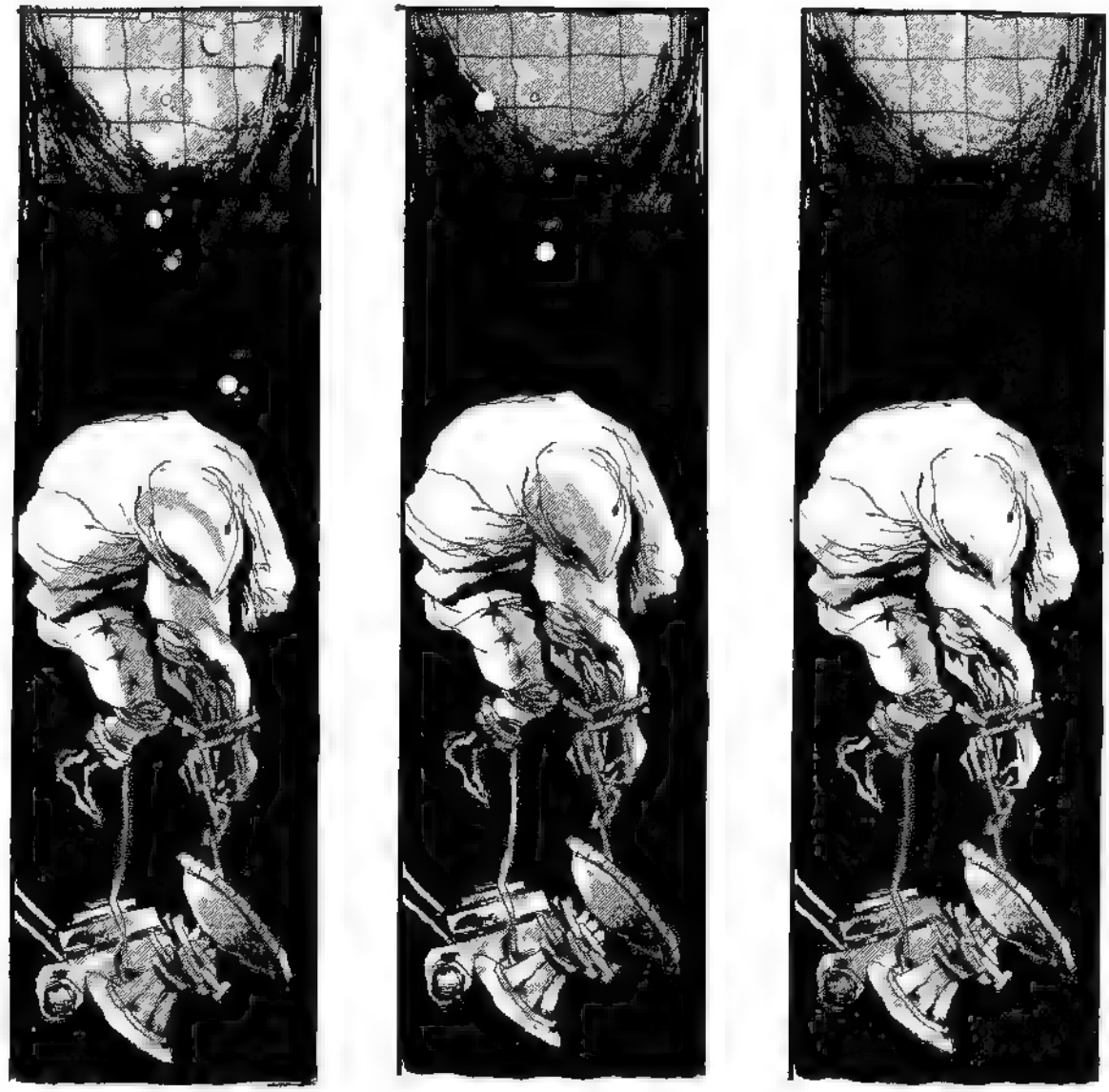

YEAH... YEAH, YOU DO.
SO DO I. SOMETIMES I'M NOT SO QUICK, Y'KNOW? SOME THINGS GIVE ME TROUBLE. BUT I AIN'T SO DUMB I CAN OUTWIT MYSELF, NOT FOREVER.
DON'T
DON'T DO THIS.
NO, I BEEN THINKING... HOW COME I'M ALL O'SUDDEN THE STRONGEST GUY IN THE UNIVERSE?
STOP.
HOW COME ALIEN WOMEN HAVE SUCH GREAT TITS?
HOW COME ALL YOU E.T. FUCKERS LOOK LIKE DOGGONE HUMAN SPINES?
'CUZ IT'S ALL IN MY HEAD ISN'T IT?
STOP, BONESHAKER.
I KILLED MYSELF.
I DROWNED.
STOP.
THIS IS ALL BULLSHIT.

GO AWAY!
GO.
AWAY!!

GO AWAY!
ALL OF IT!
UHHRR.
AHURR.
GO... HUH.
AWAY.
HUHR.

AUHH.
AHUH.
YOU, TOO.





END

MR. MAMOULIAN

# FUN

ZO BOLLAND '87

THEN HER PARENTS TOLD HER NOT TO BE SO CHILDISH, IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO TURN A TENNIS BALL INSIDE-OUT !
SHE BELIEVED THEM... AND SHE COULD NEVER DO IT AGAIN
READY ?

# THE HAIR OF THE SNAKE (THAT BIT ME)

SPECIAL THANKS TO DAVE McKEAN

STEP AND AGAIN GENTLEMEN AND LADIES STEP THIS WAY

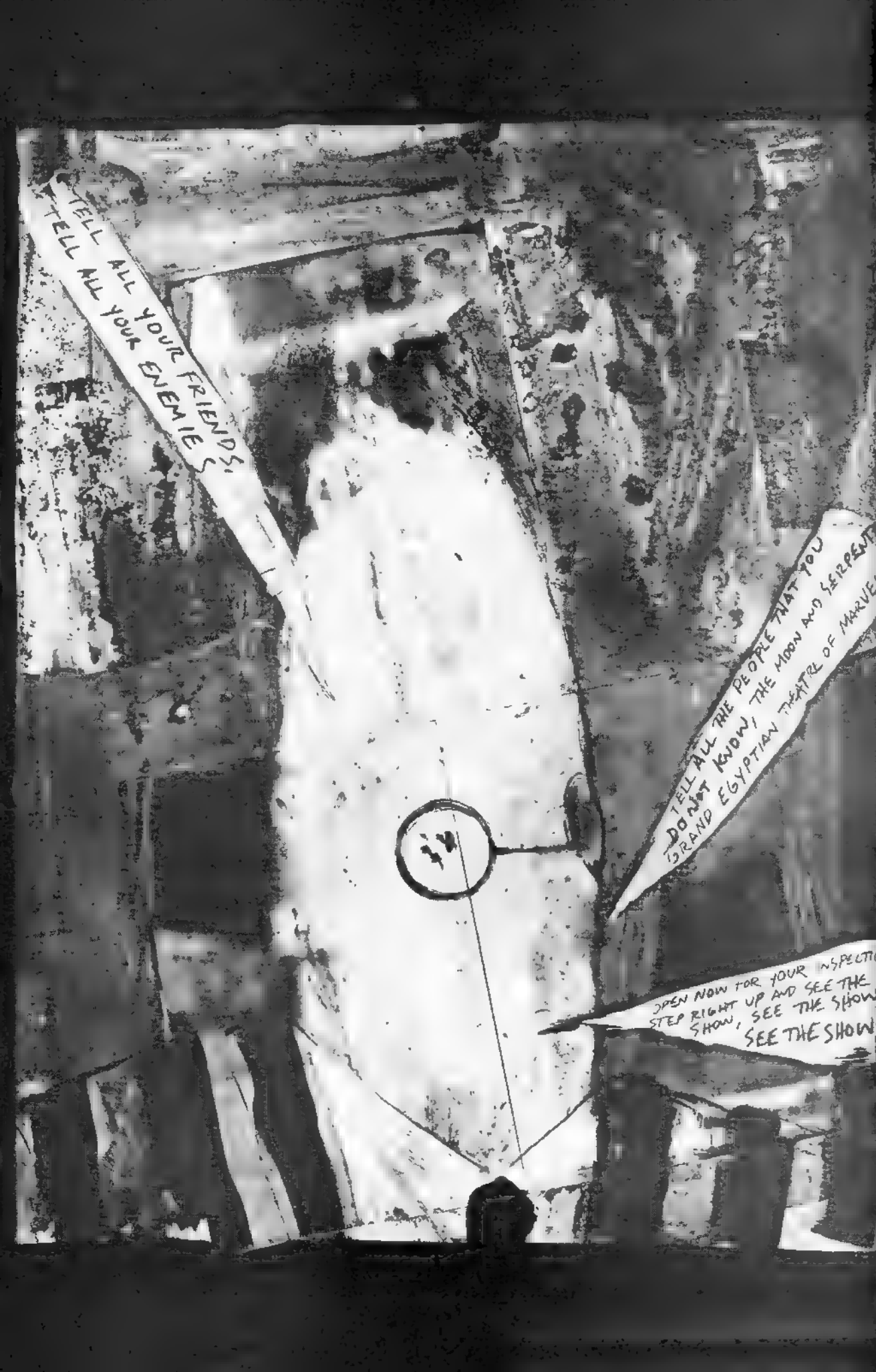
RAND EGYPTIAN THEATRE OF MARVELS

CHOOSE TO SUIT YOUR EVERY INCLINATION

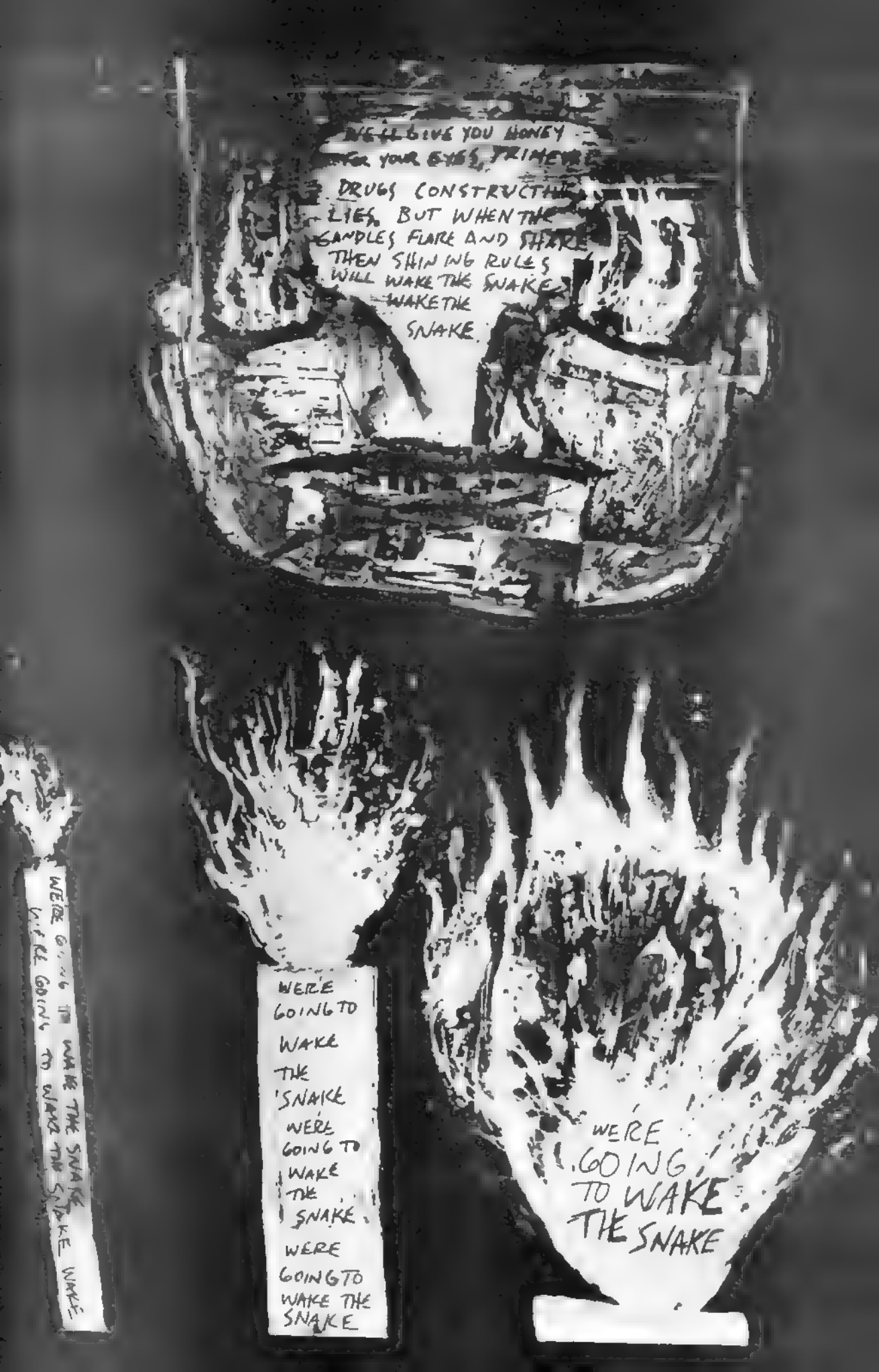
SEXUAL EXPERIMENTS

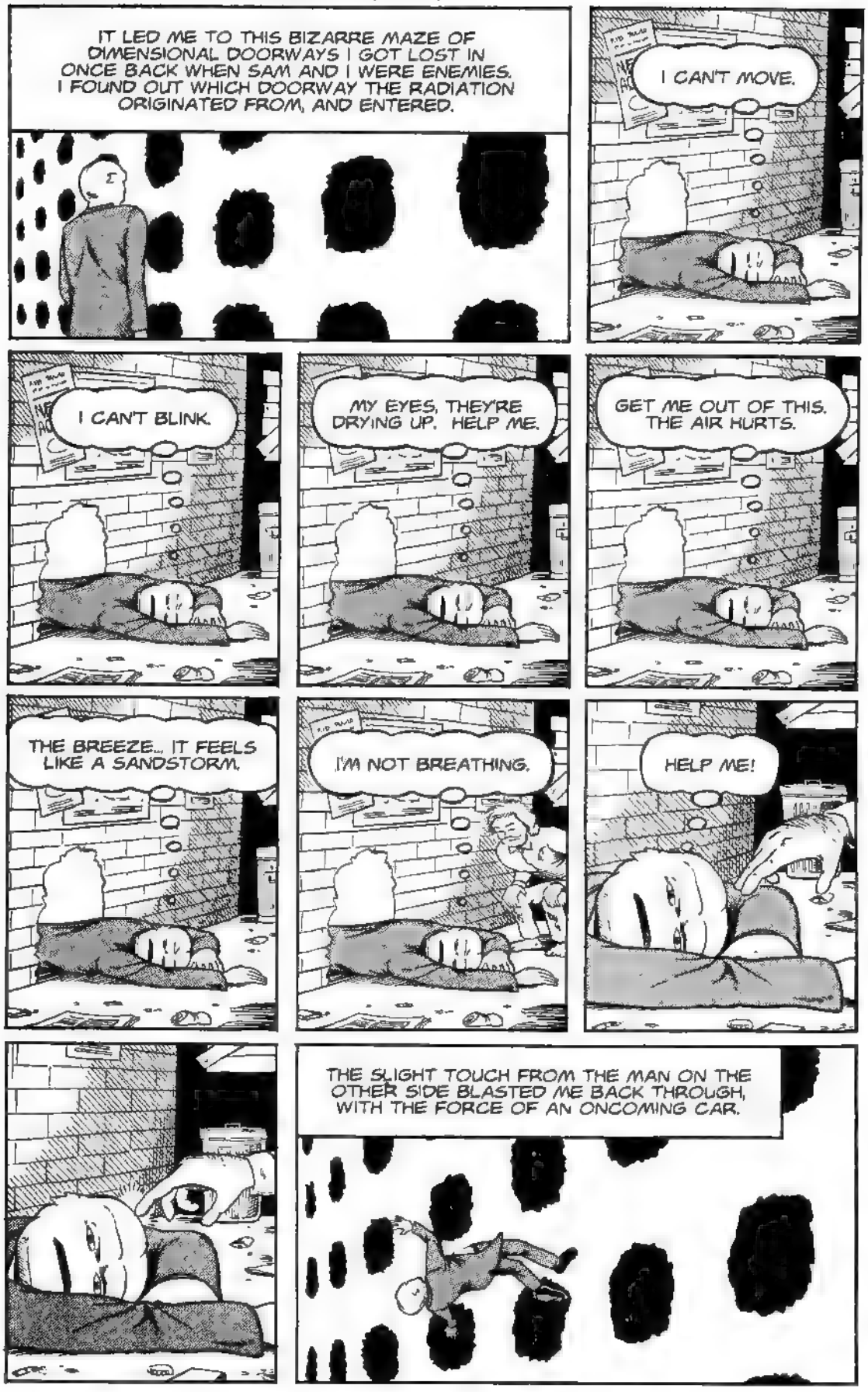
IN BENIN AT HOME
BEYOND
WE
GUARANTEE
ADMITTANCE
TO
OUR
DEMONTE
SINCE
THE

CAVALLERIA RUSTICANA
A MUSICAL ACCOMPANIMENT BY
THIS ONE YOU MUST NOT MISS


TELL ALL YOUR FRIENDS,
TELL ALL YOUR ENEMIES
TELL ALL THE PEOPLE THAT YOU
DO NOT KNOW,
GRAND EGYPTIAN
OPEN NOW FOR YOUR
STEP RIGHT UP AND SEE THE
SHOW, SEE THE SHOW
SEE THE SHOW

COME INSIDE


DRUGS CONSTRUCTH
LIES. BUT WHEN THE
CANDLES FLARE AND SHARE
THEN SHINING RULES
WILL WAKE THE SNAKE
WAKE THE
SNAKE
WE'RE GOING TO WAKE THE SNAKE
WE'RE GOING TO WAKE THE SNAKE WAKE
WERE GOING TO WAKE THE SNAKE WERE GOING TO WAKE THE SNAKE WERE GOING TO WAKE THE SNAKE
WE'RE GOING TO WAKE THE SNAKE


IT LED ME TO THIS BIZARRE MAZE OF DIMENSIONAL DOORWAYS I GOT LOST IN ONCE BACK WHEN SAM AND I WERE ENEMIES. I FOUND OUT WHICH DOORWAY THE RADIATION ORIGINATED FROM, AND ENTERED.
I CAN'T MOVE.
I CAN'T BLINK.
MY EYES, THEY'RE DRYING UP. HELP ME.
GET ME OUT OF THIS. THE AIR HURTS.
THE BREEZE... IT FEELS LIKE A SANDSTORM.
I'M NOT BREATHING.
HELP ME!
THE SLIGHT TOUCH FROM THE MAN ON THE OTHER SIDE BLASTED ME BACK THROUGH, WITH THE FORCE OF AN ONCOMING CAR.

IT WAS THE MOST HORRIFYING EXPERIENCE OF MY LIFE.
ARGOLL. THAT WASN'T A DEAD END.
THAT'S THE ANSWER. DON'T YOU GET IT?
SAM! YOU'RE A DEAD MAN.
NOW WHO?
OH, NO. CHIB. GIVE IT A REST, WILL YA?
A REST? I'VE BEEN TRYING SO HARD TO GET MY HANDS ON YOU!
THIS IS CHIB? AND JOE AND TANA?
THE VERY SAME. DON'T WE LOOK DARLING AS HUMANS?
YOU'RE NOT ARGOLL, ARE YOU?
YES, OLD FRIEND. DOES THAT MAKE YOU NERVOUS?
NO. I MEAN . . . NO, OF COURSE NOT.

THIS MIX-UP HAS GONE FAR ENOUGH. I'M SETTLING IT NOW. YOU ALL THOUGHT SAM DESTROYED YOUR WORLD, AND YOU'RE WRONG.
DON'T LISTEN TO HIM. HE'S A HUSTLER.
CHIB, YOU SAW SAM ACCIDENTALLY DETONATE THE BOMB. WHO TOLD SAM WHERE IT WAS?
JOE DID. BUT . . . THAT WAS JUST A PRANK. SAM PLANTED REAL EXPLOSIVES.
AND WHO TOLD YOU THAT?
JOE.
DO YOU SEE THE POSSIBILITY THAT YOU'RE IN ERROR?
THAT'S RIDICULOUS! JOE HAD NO REASON TO BE INVOLVED!
LOOK, I'LL ADMIT TO YOU THAT I STARTED THE WHOLE THING. I ACQUIRED THE BOMB, BUT SOMEONE ELSE SET IT UP FOR ME.
WHY THE HELL WOULD JOE HAVE DONE SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
A VERY GOOD QUESTION. THE MOTIVE. WHOSE MOTIVE COULD HAVE BEEN JUSTIFIABLE? OR ACCEPTABLE?
MY MOTIVE WAS THAT WE WERE AT WAR. I WAS MERELY BEING A LOYAL SOLDIER, ATTEMPTING TO DESTROY THE ENEMY.
EVEN SAM HAD A DECENT MOTIVE. HIS PEOPLE TURNED ON HIM AND MADE HIM AN EXILE AFTER ALL HE HAD DONE FOR THEM BEFORE HE WAS BRAINWASHED. BUT SAM DIDN'T DO IT.

SO YES, TELL ME, WHAT WOULD JOE'S MOTIVE HAVE BEEN?
JOE! SAY SOMETHING!
I...
COULD IT HAVE BEEN MONEY?
MONEY?
FOR A GRUBBY PILE OF CASH, JOE HAD REPORTED HIS OLD FRIEND SAM'S WHERABOUTS TO ME. YOUR ENEMY.
SAY WHAT?
WHAT OTHER MOTIVE? COWARDICE?
JOE RIGGED THE BOMB BECAUSE I TOLD HIM WE WOULD WIN THE WAR, AND I COULD GRANT HIM IMMUNITY ON RUST.
JUST WHO IS THE BADDEST BAD GUY IN THE ROOM?
JOE, IT ISN'T TRUE?
YOU FOOLED ME INTO THINKING SAM WAS BEHIND ALL THIS! IF IT WASN'T FOR THAT, I WOULDN'T HAVE GONE THROUGH ALL THE CRAP I WENT THROUGH TRYING TO KILL SAM!
YOU'RE NOT GETTING OUT OF THIS ALIVE!
HEY! I'LL HAVE NO VIOLENCE IN MY PLACE!

HELL YOU WILL!
YOUR PLACE?
I THOUGHT YOU JUST WORKED HERE.
HUH.
OH DEAR.
HA HA HAW.
WHAT'S SO FUNNY? I DON'T GET IT
HAH HAH HAH HAH HAH.
THAT'S VINCE!
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!
HAA HAH HAH HAH

NEXT: PLEASE EXIT CAREFULLY

# david mazzucchelli

## Sketchbook

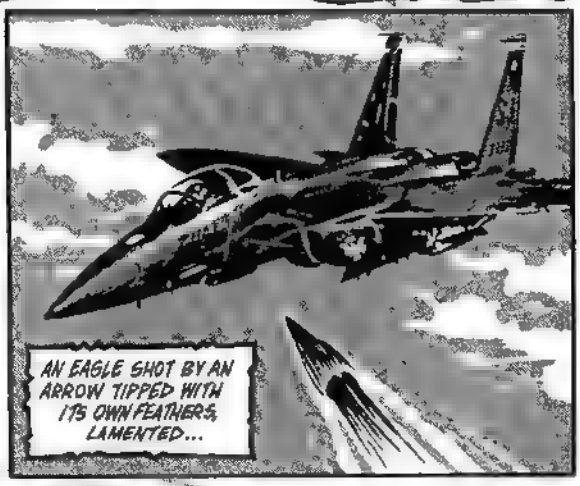
ENOUGH
ENOUGH
LOOK CLOSELY
THE PICTURE ON
THE BOARD IT
A STAR FROM
OUR PAST
LOOK
SEND
BENGUELA
PILCHARD

SEMOLINA
PILCHARD

# CLASSICS DESECRATED

## AESOP'S the EAGLE and the ARROW

DEFILED BY DOUG WHEELER AND RAY LAGO — LETTERS BY WIMMER



WHAT ARE YOU PICKING ON ME FOR? I DIDN'T EVEN GET RE-ELECTED--
IF YOU WANT TO PICK ON SOMEONE, WHY DON'T YOU GO READ "THE DEPARTURE OF TRUTH" TO BILL CLINTON OR THE KENNEDYS?
SQUAWK! SQUAWK!

CLASSICS DESECRATED
AESOP'S DEPARTURE OF TRUTH
A MAN WANDERING IN THE DESERT CAME UPON A FIGURE IN AN ABANDONED CEMETERY...
WHO GOES THERE?
THE BEING THOUGHT OF REPLYING "DEATH"— AND HAVING A GOOD LAUGH AT THE MORTAL'S FRIGHT..
BUT LYING—EVEN IN FUN WAS NOT IN THE CREATURE'S NATURE
I AM "TRUTH"
VENERATED BEING!
WHY HAVE YOU ABANDONED THE CITY AND DWELL NOW IN THE WILDERNESS AMONGST THE DEAD
AMONGST THE MEN OF OLD 'TWAS ONLY WITH A FEW THAT MY ENEMY -FALSEHOOD- FOUND A HOME. BUT NOW THAT SHE HAS CREATED THE DISGUISE OF "POLITICAL CORRECTNESS," EVEN THOSE WHOM HAD FORMERLY CHERISHED ME HAVE BEEN TRICKED INTO EMBRACING HER.
UHH EXCUSE ME- WOULDN'T IT BE MORE PROPER TO SAY "AMONGST PERSONS OF OLD" INSTEAD OF "MEN"?
AND, FOR THAT MATTER INSTEAD OF "OLD" COULDN'T YOU SAY "ABUNDANTLY ANNUATED"?
AMORAL: WE CAN'T TELL YOU IT WOULD BE POLITICALLY INCORRECT
COMPILED BY DOUG WHEELER & TED NAIFEH
LETTERS MALLWHEELY

# CLASSICS DESECRATED™

## AESOP'S "The First Liars"

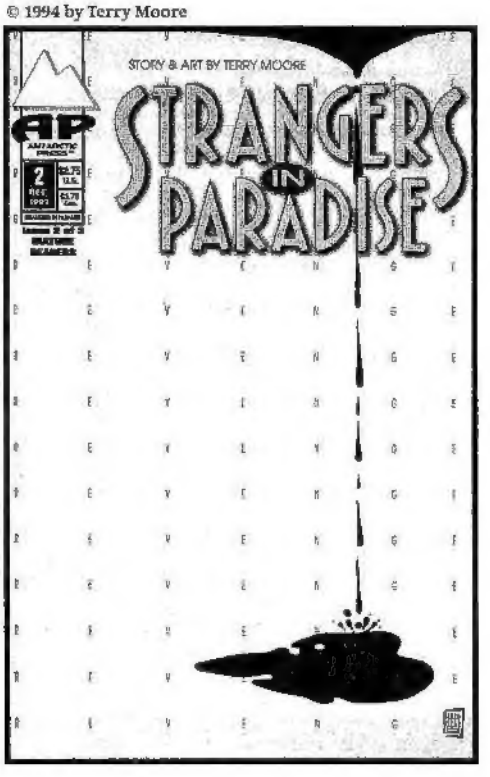
### Desecrated by Doug Wheeler and Bruce Bolinger

In ancient times, when the tribes of Man were divided by profession rather than nationality...
...the god Hermes filled up a wagon with lies, packing it with every deceit and villany now known...
...and traveled the world distributing to each tribe a small portion of these wares.
When he arrived at the border dividing the lands of the Doctors, Lawyers, and Politicians...
...his wagon unexpectedly (it is told) broke one of its wheels.
The natives set upon and plundered the wagon...
...preventing its cargo from reaching other men, as a *few* were yet unvisited.
PTL
IRS
INSURANCE AGENTS
BANKERS
PUBLISHERS
MECHANICS
TELEVANGELISTS
HERE'S A BIG ONE, ORAL!
THE BIG FRAUD
CUNNING
GUILE
HYPOCRISY
LURES
FLATTERY
DELUSION
EVASION
PRAYER
BORDER TOLL AHEAD
VISA
KEERAK
FLASH
OH SHIT OH SHIT OH SHIT
I AM NOT A CROOK!
AWFUL ACCIDENT! SOMEONE SHOVED PAH!
ROBERTSON
GREED
I GOT A DOUBLE DOSE! I GOT A DOUBLE DOSE!!
MR. GOODWRENCH
SMITH, KABLE & STRAIN
I KNOW A DOCTOR WHO WILL TESTIFY TO THE INJURIES YOU DON'T YET REALIZE YOU HAVE!
HEY PAL, LEMME GIVE YOU AN ESTIMATE ON THAT WAGON...

## *MORAL: "Each trade seeks the tools most important to it."*

home...
and another long day...
but tonight is different.
tonight...
tonight...
she's waiting for me...
to come home.
THE HOMECOMING
she was beautiful.
i wanted to say something very romantic...
how was your day?
i didn't.
very, very quiet. i watched all the STAR WARS movies...
THIS i didn't expect.
it seems silly.
all EIGHT hours?
especially now
but suddenly i saw her in a brand new light.
it seems such a little thing.
but in that moment...
in my heart i knew...
i had found HER.
yep...
in my own funny view... the PERFECT girl.
a funny thing happened when i came home from work today...
the girl who had already stolen my heart...
stole it again.

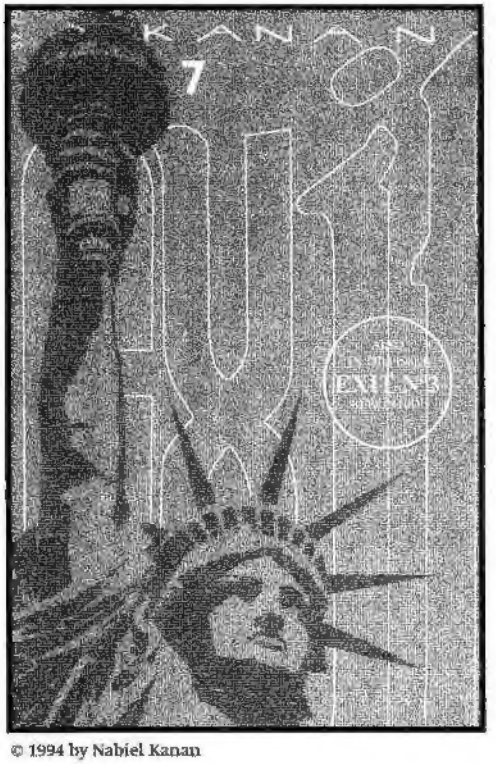
© 1994 by Terry Moore




# JOE'S RECOMMENDED READING LIST

I'm going to try from time to time to spotlight a couple of small press and self-published titles that I feel deserve special attention and consideration from you, the buying and reading public. This month the spotlight focuses on Terry Moore's excellent STRANGERS IN PARADISE and Nabiel Kanan's captivating EXIT. Both these titles are self-published and the creators need your support to continue to make a living doing what they do best—make worthwhile comic books.

Terry Moore's STRANGERS IN PARADISE, as seen in NEGATIVE BURN #13, deals with the struggles of Francine and Katchoo and their relationship with men, especially Freddie and David. It's a lot more complicated than that, but why should I tell you everything? Go out and buy it and find out for yourself! If you can't find STRANGERS at your local comic shop then write to Terry Moore personally at ABSTRACT STUDIOS, PO Box 271487, Houston, TX 77277-1487. If you don't jump on the bandwagon now, then you'll just have to pay the inflated prices for the issues later. Oh, I forgot to tell you, STRANGERS IN PARADISE #1 will be on sale Sept. 20th at all fine comic shops. Start camping outside their doorstep now or you might just miss it.




© 1994 by Nabiel Kanan

Nabiel Kanan's EXIT is a very complex, yet compelling series focusing around some teenagers in England, a death of a friend, relationships, and America. The artwork flows and consistently matures throughout the series, while the writing is crisp and thought-provoking—which you would know if you read the EXIT short story in NEGATIVE BURN #12. The bad news is that EXIT is being put on hiatus after issue eight. The good news is that I'll be working with Nabiel in bringing EXIT over to Caliber Press in early 1995. In the meantime, order the back issues straight from Nabiel at TAXI COMICS, 19 Cornhill, Allestree, Derby DE22 2GG, UK. Cost of each issue is $3.00 (sorry, issue three is sold out).

# Letters

**Personal Appearance Schedule for November 1994**

November 12
Chattanooga, TN
**Collector's Choice**

&

Cleveland, TN
**Collector's Choice**

Charles and Lisa Moore, Wayne Vansant, Joel Thomas, Jason Martin, Rick Mays and Joe Pruett will be signing and chatting with all who are brave enough to come.
For info:
**(615) 855-4128**

November 26, 27
**Rad Con**
Norfolk, VA
at the Norfolk Waterside Convention Center in the Marriott
235 E. Main St.
(804) 628-6452 for reservations

Confirmed guests include: Joe Pruett, Brian Bolland (his only stateside appearance in 1994), David Mazzucchelli, and Colleen Doran.

Peter Sniderman
2462 Estes #2
Chicago, IL 60645

To Joe and friends,

Enclosed, I have submitted a check in the amount of $18.00 for the next six issues of your magazine, NEGATIVE BURN. I normally do not subscribe to comic books, but after reading your anniversary issue 13, I couldn't resist.

I have been buying comic books since I was a child. I started really reading them when I was in high school. I have found lately, that the books I have been buying more of, nowadays, are the black and white, alternative style books. The ones that are clearly interested more in producing quality rather than quantity. And in the past year or so, Caliber Press has caught my attention, and held it. I am not cutting down other independent, smaller companies; I don't believe in doing that when writing another company, I thorough enjoy other companies. Caliber Press has just held at the top of the list so far.

The one thing that has always fascinated me about this industry has been the wide diversity of writing, drawings, and subject matter. Nowadays, it seems more and more people are finding themselves with something to say, something to be heard. Whether it's an actual fact or just some crazy story they can't shake loose from their head, they have found a way to be heard, a way to reach so many people all at once: the comic book. And the topics discussed and published in these books leave me to believe that, with a little tact, we can get away with just about anything in this medium. So much of it hits me square in the chest, leaving a huge impression on me, leaving me to think and rethink what I know, what I have learned from the story. Others can just pass me by, leaving me with nothing but a good story to read with great artwork, simply for entertainment. But I know somewhere, someone is reading it, they're getting it, and they are hearing it. No ones work goes unheard.

I was especially blown away by the story written by Kyle Garner, THE BODY SNATCHERS. What a powerful story; it left quite an image in my mind for quite sometime. It gradually knocked the socks off of me. The few drawings that accompanied it by Nathan Pride—well, the only thing that springs to my mind is the saying, "less is truly more."

I also enjoyed KILROY IS HERE and THE REAL THING, a fun, easy short story by Brian Bendis. Quite a change from his FIRE series. I am looking forward to his new series, AKA GOLDFISH, due this September. I am looking forward to your magazine in the future.

To everyone there, to the magazine, NEGATIVE BURN, keep up the good work. It is only a matter of time until you are on the coffee tables of every literate, open-minded individual in America. You're already on mine.

*Thanks for the subscription, Peter. If you can't find NB at your local shop then you're always welcome to get it straight from us. I'm also really happy that I've been getting so many positive reactions from THE BODY SNATCHERS and MICRA in NB #12. I guess this shows the sophistication of our reading audience if they can take the time to read and enjoy a prose story in a comic book. A lot of people would just skip over those stories as "they take too long to read."*

*I want to apologize for Alan Moore's name being on the cover of NEGATIVE BURN #15, but nothing by him in the interior. Due to unexpected illness by the scheduled artist, the decision was made at the last minute to pull "Alan Moore's Songbook" from the issue. Unfortunately, his name was left on the cover. It was human error (which happens). I apologize for any confusion this has caused. It was not our intent to deceive.*

Scott Mitchell
via Internet

Howdy.

I just picked up NEGATIVE BURN #13, and was very impressed. The names Gaiman and Moore caught my eye, and the new STRANGERS IN PARADISE story made it a 'must buy'.

In any anthology, I expect a mixture of good and bad, and in truth I was not very impressed by the Moore/Gaiman story. I liked THE BODY SNATCHERS and THE REAL THING and found a few other stories enjoyable. The STRANGERS IN PARADISE story was worth the price of the comic itself.

But I was blown away by the DOMINIQUE story. In four pages the Moores and Gonzales crafted a comic with more story, more oomph than I've seen in quite some time. I immediately had my comic store search through the order books to see if anything else existed by these creators. (They found the Dominique book offered from Caliber for September, but nothing else. They increased their order on that.) Do you know of anything else by these talented people?

Though I don't pick up NEGATIVE BURN regularly, it is issues like this that make me glad you guys are around. Keep up the good work.

*Glad you liked the issue, Scott. I was pleased to be able to offer up an original STRANGERS IN PARADISE story in our anniversary issue. If you don't go out and buy the new series that Terry's putting out then you shouldn't be reading comics.*

*The Moore's DOMINIQUE character has made a few appearances in the past—most notability in DARK HORSE PRESENTS #71-73 (with art by CATWOMAN artist Jim Balent) and the one-shot from Caliber this past July. Charles has just finished up BLOODPACK, a 4-issue mini-series from DC due after the first part of the year and Gene is currently at work on a SHOWCASE project, also from DC.*